

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE HEALTH

OF THE



County Borough of Rotherham

FOR THE YEAR 1903,

BY

ALFRED ROBINSON, M.D.,

Medical Officer of Health.

Mem. Royal Coll. Surg., Eng.,

Licent. San. Science,

President Yorkshire Branch Incorporated Soc.
of Med. Off. of Health.

ROTHERHAM :

F. W. CROOKES, PRINTER, BOOKBINDER, ETC., BRIDGEGATE.

1904.

Health Committee of the Council

—OF THE—

COUNTY BOROUGH OF ROTHERHAM.

Chairman :—ALDERMAN HICKMOTT, J.P.

Vice-Chairman :—COUNCILLOR GRUNDY.

Members :—ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL.

Infectious Hospitals Sub-Committee.

Chairman :—ALDERMAN HICKMOTT.

Vice-Chairman :—COUNCILLOR GRUNDY.

THE MAYOR.

ALDERMEN GUMMER and WINTER.

COUNCILLORS REEVES and FIELDSEND.

Officials of the Public Health Department.

Medical Officer of Health :—

ALFRED ROBINSON, M.D., M.R.C.S., L.S.Sc.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health :—

ROBERT G. RIDDELL, M.B., F.R.C.S.E., D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector :—C. E. PARKIN.

Assistant Sanitary Inspectors :—C. E. PARKIN, Junr.,

S. F. KNOTT.

Annual Report, 1903.

To the Mayor, Aldermen, and Council of the
County Borough of Rotherham.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit for your consideration my Annual Report of the health of the Borough of Rotherham for the year 1903.

I beg to call your attention to the following chief points of interest which you will find dealt with in greater detail in the subsequent part of the report :

The Death Rate for the past year shows a slight increase over that of 1902, which was exceptionally low.

The rate of mortality amongst infants is a high one, and could, I think, be materially reduced by the appointment of a Female Sanitary Inspector, there being no doubt that a large number of infant lives are lost through carelessness and ignorance as regards feeding.

The Birth Rate is 33·33 and shows a decline in common with the whole of England.

There has been no serious epidemic of infectious disease except measles. The small-pox epidemic came to an end in the early part of the year, and I should like to draw your attention once more to the beneficial effects of vaccination, which I have detailed in my account of the epidemic.

A serious defect in our sanitary administration has hitherto been the absence of a suitable Isolation Hospital for infectious diseases, and it is a matter for congratulation that the scheme for the erection of a substantial and commodious Hospital is now so far advanced.

I still consider that the Water obtained from Dalton and Ulley is a source of anxiety. The result of the analyses show that it is not above suspicion and is frequently liable to pollution. The greater the proportion of Sheffield Water used, the purer is the supply, and the less the danger of outbreaks of Typhoid Fever and Diarrhœa.

Dr. R. G. Riddell has, for the second year, personally had under his control the Bacteriological work in connection with the Borough. During the past year 208 examinations have been made for Diphtheria, Tubercle, and Enteric Fever. This shows a considerable increase on the previous year, and proves that the medical men practising in the Borough appreciate the value of the work. A detailed account of the work accomplished is included in this Report.

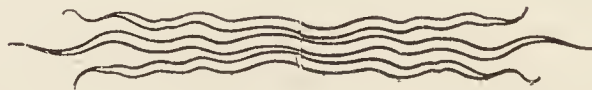
The loss sustained by the Council, and in particular by the Health Committee, owing to the resignation of Mr. John Cox, J.P., has been a great one, and has been to me a matter of keen regret. During the years that I had the good fortune to be associated with him in the Public Health work of the Borough, I have at all times found in him a good friend and a helpful adviser. He had an intimate knowledge of all the details of the department of which he was so long the head, and this knowledge, combined with an unusual administrative capacity and a large-minded and public-spirited interest in all that concerned the welfare of the Borough, made him invaluable in the sphere of work to which he so successfully devoted himself.

In conclusion, I beg to thank the Mayor, the Chairman, and the Committee for their support during the past twelve months.

I am, Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

ALFRED ROBINSON.



VITAL STATISTICS.

POPULATION.

I estimate the population of the Borough at 58,000. The natural increase of population by births over deaths amounted to nearly 1,000 during the year.

The number of inhabited houses in the Borough is 11,500, which gives an average of about 5 inhabitants to each house. The acreage of the Borough is 5,995 acres, and the density of population is therefore 9·6 persons per acre.

TABLE I.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1903.

1903.	ENGLAND AND WALES.	Great Towns 76.	Smaller Towns. 103.	England and Wales less the 179 Towns.	Rother- ham.
Birth Rate ...	28·4	—	—	—	33·33
Death Rate ...	15·4	16·3	14·6	14·8	17·31
Zymotic Death rate	1·46	1·89	1·41	1·08	3·19
Infantile Mortality (per 1,000 births)	132	144	135	118	187

It may be noted that both the Birth-Rate and the Death-Rate are lower than ever previously recorded for England and Wales.

BIRTHS.

The total number of births for 1903 is 1933, which gives a birth rate per 1000 of the population of 33·33. This is below the average of the past ten years, and the decline may be attributed to the fact that in years of depression of trade, the marriage rate and consequently the birth rate is invariably low.

Although it is below the average for Rotherham it yet compares favourably with the birth rate of the whole of England, and also, of most of the other great towns. (*See Table I.*)

TABLE II.
VITAL STATISTICS IN 1903 AND
PREVIOUS YEARS.

YEAR.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births Registered.	Deaths at all ages	Deaths under 1 year
1893.....	46,000	1718	870	303
1894.....	47,000	1514	776	238
1895.....	48,000	1737	800	268
1896.....	50,000	1718	751	256
1897.....	52,000	1766	925	314
1898.....	53,000	1785	871	288
1899.....	57,000	1903	934	322
1900.....	59,000	1956	989	334
1901.....	56,000	1975	981	347
1902.....	57,000	1970	865	278
Averages of Years 1893 } to 1902	52,500	1804·2	876·2	294·8
1903.....	58,000	1933	1004	363

DEATHS.

The number of deaths certified was 1004, and the death rate per 1000 of the population was 17·31. Although this figure compares favourably with the death rates of other large manufacturing towns, it is yet somewhat above the average rate for this Borough. Several causes have contributed to this. An examination of the different age groups shows us that there has been an increase in the number of deaths amongst the very old, and amongst the very young ; the numbers in the intermediate groups show very little alteration from previous years.

Amongst those over 60 there has been, as might be expected in a year so phenomenally wet as 1903, an increase in the number of deaths due to Rheumatism, Bronchitis, and Heart Disease. Aged people are particularly liable to Cardiac and Respiratory Diseases, and the continued rainy weather not only originated these diseases in many who had not previously suffered from them, but also prevented many who were ill from recovering, as they might have done had there been intervals of dry and bracing weather.

Amongst children under five years of age the increase has been chiefly due to diarrhœa and whooping cough, diseases which are both in a considerable measure preventible. Bronchitis and pneumonia, due partly to the inclement weather, but also frequently following on measles and other infectious diseases, have accounted for a considerable number.

38 young children were certified as having died from atrophy and debility, and 60 deaths were traceable to premature birth.

On the other hand there were 41 persons of whom no other cause of death could be attributed than old age.

There has been an increase in the number of deaths due to accident, 33 coming under this heading. There were also six cases of suicide, but none of homicide.

TABLE III.—VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1903 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

Year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births.		Total Deaths Registered in the District.				Total Deaths in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Non-residents registered in Public Institutions in the District.		Deaths of Non-residents registered in Public Institutions beyond the District.		Rate.*
		Number.	Rate.*	Under 1 Year of age.		At all ages.			Institutions in the District.	Public Institutions in the District.	Public Institutions in the District.	Public Institutions in the District.	
				Num-ber.	Rate per 1000 Births registered	Num-ber.	Rate.*						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
1893	46,000	1718	37.13	303	172.8	870	18.70	71					
1894	47,000	1514	32.00	238	168.3	776	16.51	66					
1895	48,000	1737	36.18	268	226.7	800	16.66	68					
1896	50,000	1718	34.36	256	148.2	751	15.00	75					
1897	52,000	1766	34.00	314	176.6	925	17.78	74					
1898	53,000	1785	33.00	288	160.2	871	16.05	90					
1899	57,000	1903	33.56	322	168.1	934	16.38	82					
1900	59,000	1956	33.15	334	168.6	989	16.76	104	27	16		17.64	
1901	56,000	1975	35.26	347	175.8	988	17.64	104	31	15	988	15.17	
1902	57,000	1970	34.56	278	141.1	865	15.17	108	41	13	865		
Averages for years 1893—1902	52,500	1804	34.32	295	170.6	877	16.67	842	33	14.6			
1903	58,000	1933	33.33	363	187.79	1004	17.31	122	22	14	996	17.17	

* Rates calculated per 1000 of estimated population.

TABLE IV.

DEATHS Registered at several Groups of Ages from different Causes, during the Year 1903.

CAUSE of DEATH	All ages.	Over 60 years.	25 to 60 Years.	15 to 25 Years.	5 to 15 Years.	1 to 5 Years.	(Inf'nts) un. 1 yr.	CAUSE of DEATH	All ages.	Over 60 Years.	25 to 60 Years.	15 to 25 Years.	5 to 15 Years.	1 to 5 Years.	(Inf'nts) un. 1 yr.
ALL CAUSES.	1004	196	203	42	37	163	363	Asthma ...	3	2	1				
								Lung Disease, &c.	5	1	2	1			1
								Order 4.							
1.—Zymotic.								Gastritis ...	1					1	
Order 1.								Enteritis ...	7		2			2	3
Small-pox ...	4	1	3					Peritonitis ...	15		3	1	2	3	6
Measles ...	24					15	9	Appendicitis ...	1		1				
Scarlet Fever ...	9				1	8		Obstruction of Bls	4	2	1				1
Whooping Cough ...	36					15	21	Stricture of „							
Diarrhœa ...	92		2	1		15	74	Hernia ...	2	1	1				
Fever—Enteric ...	10		5		4		1	Fistula ...	1		1				
Diphtheria ...	10		1		3	6		Stomach Disease	4	1	2	1			
Erysipelas ...	2		1				1	Hepatitis ...	2		2				
Croup ...	6					5	1	Jaundice ...							
Quinsy ...								Liver Disease, &c.	6	4	2				
Puerperal Fever								Otitis Media ...							
(Metria) ...								Order 5.							
Influenza ...	3		3					Nephritis ...	11	3	5	1		1	1
Chicken-pox ...								Bright's Disease...	1		1				
Remittent Fever ...								Diabetes ...	5	3		2			
Rheumatism ...	9		6	1	2			Kidney Disease ...	2				1		
Order 2.								Order 6.							
Syphilis ...	10		1				9	Uterus Disease, &c							
Stricture of Urethra	2		2					Order 7.							
Pyæmia ...	3		2			1		Synovitis Arthritis	1		1				
Tuberculosis ...	28		6	10	1	9	2	Joint Disease ...	1		1				
Order 3.								Order 8.							
Alcoholism—								Abscess ...	3	1	1			1	
a Del. Tremens	1		1					Ulcer ...	2	1	1				
Hyperpyrenia ...	1		1					Skin Diseases ...	1					1	
Anæmia ...	2	2													
2.—Constitutional.								4.—Developmental.							
Order 1.								Order 1.							
Dropsy ...	1		1					Premature Birth...	60						60
Cancer ...	45	25	19	1				Spina Bifida ...	1						1
Grangrene ...	3	3						Other Malformat's	1						1
Order 2.								Teething ...	10					2	8
Tabes Mesenterica	10					3	7	Order 2.							
Phthisis ...	43	4	28	6	3	2		Child Birth ...	6		5	1			
Hydrocephalus ...	2					1	1	Order 3.							
Rickets ...	7					3	4	Old Age. ...	41	41					
3.—Local.								Order 4.							
Order 1.								Atrophy & Debility	39	1				4	34
Cephalitis and Men-								5.—Violent Deaths.							
ingitis ...	19				3	12	4	Order 1 (Accident							
Otitis Media ...	2					2		or Negligence							
Apoplexy ...	12	6	6					Fractures & Contu's	1			1			
Paralysis ...	12	8	3			1		Wounds ...	19	5	6	4	3	1	
Epilepsy ...	2		1	1				Burns and Scalds	4				2	2	
Convulsions ...	32					6	26	Drowning ...	8		5	1		2	
Brain Disease, &c.	18	11	4			1	2	Suffocation ...	1						1
Spinal Disease ...	4			1	2			Order 3 (Suicide)							
Order 2.								Wounds ...	1			1			
Aneurism ...	1	1						Poison ...	2		2				
Heart Disease, &c.	83	30	40	2	4		1	Drowning ...	2		1	1			
Atheroma ...	1	1						Hanging ...	1		1				
Order 3.								Order 4.							
Throat Disease ...	4	2			1	1		Cause not specified							
Laryngitis ...	3					3		or ill defined...	4		2				2
Bronchitis ...	76	22	7	2	1	12	32								
Pleurisy ...	1		1												
Pneumonia ...	95	10	9	2	4	22	48								

TABLE V.—Population, Inhabited Houses, Births & Deaths.
(Gross Numbers).

	No. of Inhabited Houses in the Borough	Births.	Deaths	Deaths in Workhouse and Rotherham Hospital	Estimated Population
1903	11,500	1933	1004	122	58,000
1902	11,223	1970	865	108	57,000
1901	11,000	1975	988	104	56,000
1900	11,440	1956	989	104	59,000
1899	11,000	1903	934	82	57,000
1898	10,447	1785	871	90	53,000
1897	10,009	1766	925	74	52,000
1896	9,711	1718	751	75	50,000
1895	9,241	1737	800	68	48,000
1894	9,006	1514	776	66	47,000
Average of Ten years 1894-1903	10,457	1825·7	890·3	89·3	53,700

TABLE VI.—Annual Rate of Mortality, Death Rate
among Children, &c.

	Annual Rate of Mortality per 1000 living	Per cent. of Deaths to Total Births.	Deaths of Infants under 1 year per cent. to Total D'ths	Per cent'ge of Deaths of Infants to Registered Births.	Deaths of Children under 5 years per cent. to Total D'ths	Per cent'ge of Deaths in Work- house and Rotherham Hospital
1903	17·31	51·94	36·15	18·77	52·39	12·01
1902	15·17	43·91	32·14	14·11	47·74	12·48
1901	17·64	50·02	35·12	26·09	52·12	10·52
1900	16·76	50·56	33·56	16·86	46·41	10·51
1899	16·38	49·08	34·26	16·80	47·85	8·77
1898	17·86	49·84	31·67	15·15	45·10	8·65
1897	18·70	50·29	34·37	17·28	51·27	6·13
1896	16·51	54·24	30·67	16·83	48·96	8·50
1895	16·66	46·05	33·62	22·67	47·22	8·00
1894	15·00	43·88	34·08	14·82	46·73	9·89
Average of Ten years 1894-1903	16·79	48·98	33·57	17·93	48·57	9·54

TABLE VII.

Shewing the Death Rate per 1000 for the Five Classes of Disease combined
in Table V. for five years.

		1903	1902	1901	1900	1899
I. Zymotics (Principal)	...	3.19	1.70	3.75	2.47	1.87
II. Constitutional	...	1.91	1.93	1.67	1.96	1.78
III. Local	...	7.59	7.10	6.39	8.01	8.21
IV. Developmental	...	2.73	2.79	2.98	2.71	2.94
V. Violent	...	0.74	0.51	0.67	0.89	0.94

TABLE VIII.

Year.	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.	Zymotic D.R.*	Population.
1874	49·33	26·21	4·70	28,379
1875	47·92	27·44	5·69	29,319
1876	43·58	20·16	3·66	30,149
1877	43·41	18·98	1·31	31,029
1878	43·97	21·62	5·94	31,631
1879	41·94	18·71	1·52	32,091
1880	41·50	20·16	2·55	34,404
1881	40·16	17·22	1·89	34,782
1882	40·20	20·98	2·84	35,547
1883	33·32	20·56	1·99	35,650
1884	42·46	19·20	3·90	35,650
1885	34·70	18·26	1·96	35,650
1886	41·95	20·25	2·61	35,550
1887	37·61	20·30	2·87	36,000
1888	36·72	18·10	1·38	36,182
1889	38·60	22·65	3·26	36,807
1890	38·39	20·84	3·17	37,907
1891	35·50	24·93	3·51	43,000
1892	35·61	19·00	1·97	44,000
1893	37·13	19·91	3·23	46,000
1894	32·00	16·51	2·08	47,000
1895	36·18	16·66	1·97	48,000
1896	34·36	15·00	1·40	50,000
1897	34·62	18·33	1·65	51,000
1898	34·32	16·75	1·26	52,000
1899	35·90	17·54	0·92	53,000
1900	36·24	18·31	1·62	54,000
1901	35·26	17·64	3·57	56,000
1902	34·56	15·17	1·70	57,000
1903	33·33	17·31	3·19	58,000

* 6 Principal Zymotic Diseases.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

SMALL-POX.

The epidemic of small-pox which spread northwards from London during 1902, reached Rotherham in October of that year. It was introduced by a tramp, and in the months that followed, the disease was again and again re-introduced by vagrants. Fortunately the inhabitants of the town are well vaccinated, and vigorous measures were taken to deal with each case as it occurred, and with those who had been in contact with it, so that the epidemic never reached serious proportions. Had it not been for the fresh infection brought into the town by vagrants, the epidemic would speedily have been stamped out. Other towns have had the same experience—the great majority have been infected in the same way. The law gives us very little control over the vagrant, and if he is known to have been in contact with a case of small-pox, we have no power either to cause him to be vaccinated or to remain in quarantine. Attempts were made by getting lodging house keepers to furnish the names of their guests, to trace and supervise these contacts; but it was found that the lists of names were useless, as the vagrant had a different name for each town he came to. He was thus able to wander at will from town to town spreading infection in all directions.

A circular letter issued by the Local Government Board, to Boards of Guardians in February 1903, led to a remarkably good result in obtaining the vaccination of the vast majority of the vagrant class. The letter recommended that the Medical Officers of Workhouses should daily visit the casual wards and examine the vagrants; that such as were vaccinated should be relieved from work and given improved diet, and that this should be continued in whatever workhouse the vagrant went to while the effects of vaccination persisted. The measure was generally adopted, and the inducements held forth (especially the relief from work), were sufficient to obtain the consent of large numbers to undergo the small operation. Indeed, so effective has the measure been, that it is now rare to find a tramp in the casual wards, who has not recently

been re-vaccinated. The results were quickly seen in the diminution of the epidemic, and it is noticeable that towards the end of the epidemic small-pox occurred, not as formerly amongst the tramp class, but in better class of persons who were, however, less well protected.

During the epidemic, there occurred in the Borough 47 cases of small-pox; of these 38 had been vaccinated in infancy, and 9 were unvaccinated. Two of the vaccinated died and three of the unvaccinated.

		Discrete.		Confluent.		Mortality per cent.
Vaccinated	...	35	...	3	...	5.2%
Unvaccinated	...	4	...	5	...	33.3%

The death rate amongst the unvaccinated was thus much greater than amongst the vaccinated, and the disease was proportionately more severe.

It is well known that the protective effects of vaccination diminish as age advances, and that unless an individual be re-vaccinated after 12 or 14 years, he again becomes liable to attack from small-pox, though usually in a modified form.

No re-vaccinated person suffered from small-pox, and nor did any of those who from the nature of their duties had to come into contact daily with cases of the disease, all being efficiently protected by re-vaccination.

Twenty-one cases were removed directly from common lodging houses, and the majority of the others had received infection from the same quarter.

The last case occurred in June, and since then, the town has remained free, although occasional cases have occurred in surrounding towns till quite recently.

The Guardians are to be congratulated on the fact that although outbreaks occurred in very many of the Workhouses over the country, no cases occurred in that of the Rotherham Union. Two cases were however discovered amongst tramps in the casual wards during the daily medical inspection.

**TABLE IX.—CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH DURING
YEAR 1903.**

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Deaths in or belonging to whole District at subjoined ages.						
	All Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and up- wards
Small-pox	4	...	...	...	...	3	1
Measles	24	9	15	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	9	...	8	1	...	...	...
Whooping Cough	36	21	15	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria and Membraneous Croup ...	10	...	6	3	...	1	...
Croup	6	1	5	...	...	...	...
Fever—Enteric	10	1	...	4	...	5	...
Epidemic Influenza	3	...	...	...	...	3	...
Diarrhœa	92	74	15	...	1	2	...
Enteritis	7	3	2	...	...	2	...
Erysipelas	2	1	...	...	...	1	...
Other Septic diseases	8	...	4	...	...	3	1
Phthisis	43	...	2	3	6	28	4
Other Tubercular Diseases	38	9	12	1	10	6	...
Cancer, malignant disease	45	...	...	...	1	19	25
Bronchitis	76	32	12	1	2	7	22
Pneumonia	95	48	22	4	2	9	10
Pleurisy	1	...	...	...	...	1	...
Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs..	15	1	4	1	1	3	5
Alcoholism—Cirrhosis of Liver ...	7	...	...	...	...	3	4
Venereal Diseases	12	9	...	...	...	3	...
Premature Birth	60	60	...	...	...	...	...
Diseases and Accidents of Parturition..	6	...	...	...	1	5	...
Heart Diseases	80	1	...	4	2	40	33
Accidents	33	1	5	5	6	11	5
Suicides	6	...	...	...	2	4	...
All other causes	276	92	36	10	8	44	86
All causes	1004	363	163	37	42	203	196

TABLE X.

STATISTICS AS TO SCARLET FEVER.					
Year	Approximate Population	No. of Cases of Scarlet Fever Notified or Ascertained	No. of such Patients isolated in Hospital	Total Deaths registered from Scarlet Fever	REMARKS, including any factor affecting the Scarlet Fever incidence
1884	35,650	196		37	
1885	35,650	289		40	
1886	35,550	54		3	
1887	36,000	112		2	
1888	36,182	128		12	
1889	36,807	187		23	
1890	37,907	206		33	
1891	43,000	131		10	
1892	44,000	111		8	
1893	46,000	72		4	
1894	47,000	325		25	
1895	48,000	178		12	
1896	50,000	259		4	
1897	51,000	212		19	
1898	52,000	219		13	
1899	53,000	258	2	14	
1900	54,000	726	54	35	
1901	56,000	267	61	5	
1902	57,000	127	31	3	
1903	58,000	246	17	9	

SCARLET FEVER.

The number of cases of Scarlet Fever notified has increased considerably from last year, but there has been no serious epidemic, and the type of disease has been a mild one. 246 cases were notified with 17 deaths.

MEASLES.

This disease is not notifiable so that exact statistics as to its occurrence are not available. The epidemic lists returned by the teachers of the Old School Board, were exceedingly helpful in giving information as to the extent and locality of the disease amongst school children. Since the institution of the New Education Authority this source of information has not been available. I should be glad if some system could be adopted by which the Medical Officer could be periodically supplied by the School Teachers with lists of absentees from Whooping Cough, Measles, and Chicken Pox. The trouble would be small, and a fairly accurate knowledge could be gained of the extent of these non-notifiable diseases.

During the close of the year a severe epidemic of Measles occurred in the Kimberworth and Masbro' Districts of the Borough. Many hundreds of children must have been affected, and 24 deaths were recorded. Probably many more deaths were traceable to the epidemic if we take into account those due to troubles following on the disease.

A large number of placards and handbills were distributed over the Borough, pointing out the symptoms and dangers of the disease, and the necessity of obtaining proper medical treatment.

The disease is one which cannot be treated lightly as it carries off a number of victims every year, and usually makes its appearance in epidemic form about every three years.

WHOOPIING COUGH.

Whooping Cough was present nearly all the year, and accounted for no fewer than 36 deaths, or nine times as many as were caused by Small-pox in the same year. It must thus be considered a serious disease amongst children, and especially amongst infants.

The epidemic was most severe in the earlier months of the year, and in April seven deaths were certified.

Great care requires to be exercised in excluding cases of this disease from School, and in isolating them from other children, as it is extremely infectious.

DIPHTHERIA.

The cases of this disease have not been numerous, and there has been no extensive epidemic, but occasional groups of cases have cropped up in different localities. In all 102 cases were notified and of these 10 died. Owing to lack of accommodation none of the cases were isolated in hospital, but many were treated with antitoxin supplied gratuitously by the Corporation, and excellent results are reported from its use. The disease is a very fatal one to young children, and is one which is especially suitable for treatment in hospital, as skilled and careful nursing is highly necessary.

TABLE XI.

Shewing the number of cases of Infectious Diseases notified to the Medical Officer of Health during the Year 1903 and the number of Deaths from the Diseases reported.

						Cases Notified	Deaths Registered
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	246	9
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	102	10
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	...	...	67	10
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	6	0
Membranous Croup	...	...	...	...	...	13	6
Small Pox	...	...	...	...	...	38	4
Typhus Fever	...	...	...	...	...	0	0
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	63	2
Total						341	41

DIARRHŒA.

92 deaths took place from Diarrhœa, 74 of these being in Infants under one year of age. The disease is one which is in a great measure preventable, as it is chiefly due to dirt and to improper feeding. That so large a number of children should have died during a year when the climatic conditions were not favourable to Diarrhœa is a proof that the proper methods of rearing children are very imperfectly understood amongst the poorer working classes, whose children are the chief sufferers. To remedy such a state of affairs it is necessary to instruct the parents in matters relating to the care and feeding of Infants. A certain amount has been done by the issue of placards and handbills containing warnings and instructions, but more than this is required. I have long advocated the appointment of Female Sanitary Inspectors, women who are fully trained for this kind of work. Their usefulness has been proved wherever they have been appointed, and I believe that by this means a large number of infant lives could be preserved, that are at present sacrificed through ignorance.

TYPHOID FEVER.

Enteric Fever is seldom altogether absent from the Borough, but there has been no serious epidemic throughout the year. During the month of October, however, the number of cases notified increased from the average of 3 or 4 per month to 15. As nearly all of these cases occurred in a particular district corresponding to distribution of water supply from the low level source, I made a careful inspection of the whole of the area from which this water is derived. Several defects were discovered, which were chiefly due to the excessive rainfall and floods which had recently occurred. These were promptly remedied, and the incidence of cases of Enteric Fever decreased.

In all 67 cases were notified and there were 10 deaths. The want of proper hospital accommodation for cases of Enteric Fever has been much felt. Such patients are not received in the general Hospital and have to be treated at home. The disease is one which requires careful and skilled nursing and the most careful precautions have to be taken for the disinfection of excreta to prevent the spread of the disease. It is, therefore, highly desirable that patients suffering from this malady should be treated in hospital; and the provision that is being made for their reception in the new Isolation Hospital should prove a great boon.

INFECTED ARMY BLANKETS.

A letter, dated May 20th, 1903, was received by me from Dr. Collingridge, Medical Officer of Health for the City of London, stating that a certain number of Army Blankets had been sold by Messrs. Moore and Co., Lauderdale Buildings, Aldersgate Street, to a person residing near Rotherham, and advising that possession should be taken of them in order to disinfect or destroy them.

The facts were stated to be as follows :—

“ A large number of returned Army Blankets (of which
 “ the parcel above referred to formed a part) have been found in
 “ a filthy condition, being soiled with blood, excrement, and
 “ food. These were traced to South Africa. An outbreak of
 “ Enteric Fever has been traced from these Blankets, and in
 “ consequence some have been submitted to bacteriological
 “ examination. The result showed them to be infected with
 “ innumerable Typhoid bacilli.”

The Blankets were at once traced and on the condition of affairs being explained to their owner, he readily consented to their destruction. There were accordingly conveyed to the Public Destructor and burned.

There were twelve Blankets of the ordinary Army type, and for the most part they were in a filthy condition. Pieces were cut out for bacteriological examination, and this showed the presence of numerous bacilli of the kind which are present in excrement, and although typhoid bacilli were not themselves found, it is quite possible that some of the Blankets may have contained them. In any case all were in a most unwholesome and insanitary condition, and therefore unfit for use.

Dr. Collingridge is to be congratulated on the prompt way in which he dealt with this wholesale distribution of infection. Had there been any delay in the matter results might have been most serious. That no cases of Typhoid occurred in Rotherham traceable to this cause may be attributed to the rapid way in which we were able to obtain possession of and destroy the Blankets.



TABLE XII.—CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1903.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	Cases Notified in Whole District.						Total Cases notified in each Locality.					Number of Cases removed to Hospital from each Locality.							
	At all Ages.	YEARS.					East Ward.	South Ward.	West Ward.	North Ward.	Masbro' Ward	Kimberworth Ward.	East Ward.	South Ward.	West Ward.	North Ward.	Masbro' Ward	Kimberworth Ward.	
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.													65 and upwards.
Small-pox ...	38	...	...	2	5	31	...	3	7	20	2	5	1	3	7	20	2	5	1
Diphtheria ...	102	...	25	47	16	14	...	29	16	10	16	20	11	...	...	...	...	...	...
Membranous croup...	13	1	6	6	...	...	...	1	...	...	5	5	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas ...	63	6	4	4	6	37	8	10	8	13	11	13	8	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever ...	246	6	81	131	23	5	...	96	34	18	41	41	16	9	...	1	5	1	1
Enteric Fever ...	67	1	9	18	13	26	...	19	9	8	17	9	5	...	...	...	...	...	...
Continued Fever ...	2	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever ...	6	...	...	...	2	4	...	2	...	1	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals ...	537	14	123	210	65	117	8	160	75	70	93	95	44	12	7	21	7	6	2

THE PROPOSED INFECTIOUS HOSPITAL.

The plans for the New Infectious Hospital were submitted to the Local Government Board and with a few unimportant alterations were accepted and passed by it. The erection of the Hospital will be proceeded with as soon as possible.

The site which has been obtained is on the North West side of Badsley Moor Lane and near the present temporary Hospital; about five acres of land are available for the purpose, and the site is in every way a good one.

It is intended to build an administrative block which will be sufficient for the requirements of the Hospital should it be subsequently increased. It will contain accommodation for nurses and servants, and will have a laboratory and dispensary for the Medical Officer.

The wards are to be arranged on the pavilion system, and each will have equal accommodation for males and females.

The total accommodation to be provided will be as follows:—

Scarlet Fever	...	...	18 beds
Typhoid Fever	...	...	14 „
Diphtheria	...	...	14 „
Observation	...	...	4 „

Attached to each block is a Nurses' room, Bath-room, Stores and Linen Cupboards, W.C.'s, and Slop Sinks, all fitted with the latest sanitary appliances. Ventilation and heating arrangements will be in accordance with the most approved ideas.

A well equipped Laundry forms a necessary part of the scheme, and adjacent to the Laundry block there will be a room for the Ambulance. Arrangements are also made for the disinfection of clothes and of patients on their discharge.

The grounds will be so laid out that patients may have as much exercise as possible without coming in contact with others suffering from different infectious diseases.

The scheme has been well thought out, and the result should be an Isolation Hospital which will be a credit to the Borough.

SMALL-POX HOSPITAL.

As the regulations of the Local Government Board do not allow of the use of the present Temporary Hospital as a Small-pox Hospital, owing to its proximity to the proposed new building, arrangements have been made to acquire a piece of land in the neighbourhood of Kimberworth, but at a sufficient distance from the village, on which a Small-pox Hospital will be erected. It is proposed to transfer the present wood and iron building from Badsley Moor Lane to the new site. The Borough will then be provided with suitable accommodation, should a future outbreak of Small-pox occur.

TABLE XIII.—Correction in Local Death Rates.

List of Persons formerly residing in Rotherham who have died in the West Riding Lunatic Asylums during the year ended 31st December, 1903.

Date of Death.	Name.	Age.	Sex.	Cause of Death.	Residence; Prior to Asylums.
1902					
Jan. 12	Powell, S. A.	49	F.	Exhaustion from Melancholia ...	115, Kimberworth
" 17	Cook, W.	72	M.	(1) Chronic Bronchitis. (2) Heart Failure ...	14, Scholes
Feb. 12	Nichols, J.	32	M.	Exhaustion from Melancholia ...	213, New Kimberworth
Mch. 16	Gunn, J.	54	M.	Pulmonary Consumption ...	Rotherham
Apl. 11	Needham, S. G.	69	F.	(1) Colitis. (2) Atrophy of Brain ...	6, Rawmarsh Road
June 8	Coonan, J.	38	M.	General Paralysis ...	Greasboro' Road
July 2	Jenkinson, C.	70	M.	(1) Chronic Bright's Dis. (2) Fatty Heart ...	Son, Ship Hill
" 28	Parker, R.	66	M.	Apoplexy ...	Masbro'
Oct. 11	Reding, J. H.	36	M.	(1) Chronic Bright's Dis. (2) Heart Failure ...	20, Pembroke Street, Holmes
" 12	Plover, W.	53	M.	General Paralysis ...	Rotherham Workhouse
Dec. 21	Hanby, C.	32	F.	Pulmonary Consumption ...	Cedar House

BACTERIOLOGICAL WORK.

The Bacteriological examination of various materials, for the purpose of assisting in the diagnosis of certain diseases, has been continued throughout the year, and over 200 specimens sent in by medical men practising in the Borough have been examined and reported on. The majority of these specimens have been swabs taken from the throats of persons suspected of suffering from Diptheria ; but examinations have also been made of specimens of blood as an aid to the diagnosis of Enteric Fever, and of sputum for the discovery of the tubercule bacillus. Other conditions have also been investigated from time to time and assistance afforded in the diagnosis of difficult conditions by this means. Specimens of diseased meat from the slaughter-houses have also occasionally been examined and the presence of tubercule bacilli and other organisms has been demonstrated.

Outfits have been supplied to the medical practitioners of the town for the collection of the materials to be examined. These consist of sterilized swabs for procuring material from the throats of those who are suspected of suffering from Diptheria, and of sterilized tubes for the collection of blood from suspected cases of Enteric Fever.

Antitoxin has been supplied gratuitously by the Corporation through the Medical Officer of Health, for use in cases of Diptheria where patients are not in a position to pay for the remedy. 138 phials of anti-diptheritic serum have been thus distributed, each phial containing 2000 units of the serum. The value of the remedy is great, not only in curing the disease, but also in preventing its spread amongst those living in infected houses.

TABLE XIV.
BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS.

	Positive	Negative	Total
Typhoid Fever : Serum Reaction...	10	13	23
Throat Examination : Diptheria } Bacilli }	72	72	144
Sputum : Tubercle Baeilli... ..	17	15	32
Other Examinations ... ..	...	...	9
Total ... ..	...	...	208

A Bacteriological Laboratory is now acknowledged to be a necessary adjunct to the Health Department of all important towns, and it is satisfactory to note that provision has been made for a Laboratory in the Infectious Hospital which is to be erected in the near future. It will then be possible to extend the sphere of usefulness of this work.

ROBERT G. RIDDELL, M.B., F.R.C.S.F., D.P.H.,
Deputy M.O.H.

WATER ANALYSIS.

*Public Analyst's Laboratory,
67, Surrey Street,
Sheffield.*

Report on a Sample of Drinking Water (High Level), received from the Corporation of the Borough of Rotherham, on October 30th, 1903. Sample Mark :—No. 124.

Physical Characters :—

Suspended Matter :—None.

Appearance of a Column two feet long :—Clear and colourless.

Taste :—Normal. Ordour :—None.

On Analysis, the sample gave the following results :—

Total Solid Matter, 26·88 ; which lost on Ignition, 7·42 grs.

Chlorine, 1·90 ; equal to Sodium Chloride, 3·13 grs.

Nitrogen in oxidised forms, 0·17 ; equal to Nitric Acid (anhydrous), 0·66 grs.

Poisonous Metals (Lead, &c.), None.

Degrees of Hardness, 13·0. [Each degree of hardness represents a soap-destroying power equivalent to one grain of chalk per gallon.]

Reducing Power, 0·28. [Representing the Oxygen absorbed by the organic and other oxidisable matters in one million parts of water.]

Free and Unreal Ammonia, 0·04 parts per million.

Albuminoid Ammonia, 0·12 parts per million.

These results show the water in its present condition to be fairly free from readily-changeable organic matter. The proportion of chlorides is higher than is usually met with in water of unexceptionable origin in the South Yorkshire District, and occurring together with nitrates, it suggests that the water has received infiltration of drainage from cultivated land.

ALFRED H. ALLEN.

November 9th, 1903.

Report of a Sample of Drinking Water (Low Level), received from the Corporation of the Borough of Rotherham, On October 30th 1903. Sample Mark :—123.

Physical Characters :—

Suspended Matter, None.

Appearance of a Column two feet long :—Yellow brown, clear.

Taste :—Normal. Odour :—None.

On Analysis, the sample gave the following results :—

Total Solid Matter, 8·96 ; which lost on Ignition, 3·22 grs.

Chlorine, 0·65 ; equal to Sodium Chloride, 1·08 grs.

Nitrogen in oxidised forms, None ; equal to Nitric Acid (anhydrous), None.

Poisonous Metals (Lead, &c.), None.

Degrees of Hardness, 3·3. [Each degree of hardness represents a soap-destroying power equivalent to one grain of chalk per gallon.]

Reducing Power, 2·71. [Representing the Oxygen absorbed by the organic and other oxidisable matters in one million parts of water.]

Free and Unreal Ammonia, 0·03 parts per million.

Albuminoid Ammonia, 0·12 parts per million.

These results show the sample in its present condition to be free from other than normal traces of nitrogenous matter. The high figure for reducing power is doubtless due to the presence of traces of organic matter of vegetable origin, probably derived from peat.

ALFRED H. ALLEN,

November 9th, 1903,

Report of a Sample of Drinking Water (Sheffield), received from the Corporation of the Borough of Rotherham, on October 30th, 1903. Sample Mark :—No. 125.

Physical Characters :—

Suspended Matter—None.

Appearance of a Column two feet long—Yellow brown, clear:

Taste—Normal. Odour—None.

On Analysis, the sample gave the following results :—

Total Solid Matter, 8·12; which lost on Ignition, 2·80 grs.

Chlorine, 0·65; equal to Sodium Chloride, 1·08 grs.

Nitrogen in oxidised forms, None; equal to Nitric Acid (anhydrous), None.

Poisonous Metals (Lead, &c.), None.

Degrees of Hardness, 4·0. [Each degree of hardness represents a soap-destroying power equivalent to one grain of chalk per gallon.

Reducing Power, 2·57. [Representing the Oxygen absorbed by the organic and other oxidisable matters in one million parts of water.]

Free and Unreal Ammonia, 0·03 parts per million.

Albuminoid Ammonia, 0·12 parts per million.

These results show the sample in its present condition to be free from other than normal traces of nitrogenous matter. The high figure for Reducing Power is doubtless due to the presence of traces of organic matter of vegetable origin, probably derived from peat.

ALFRED H. ALLEN.

November 9th, 1903.

Report on a Sample of Drinking Water (Sheffield), received from the Corporation of County Borough of Rotherham, on February 16th, 1904. Sample Mark :—No. 126.

Physical Characters :

Suspended Matter—None.

Appearance of a Column two feet long—Yellow brown, very slightly cloudy.

Taste—Normal. Odour—None.

On Analysis, the sample gave the following results :—

Total Solid Matter, 8·40 ; which lost on Ignition, 1·82 grs.

Chlorine, 0·60 ; equal to Sodium Chloride, 1·00 grs,

Nitrogen in oxidised forms, Traces ; equal to Nitric Acid (anhydrous, — grs.

Poisonous Metals (Lead, &c.), None.

Degrees of Hardness, 2·6. [Each degree of hardness represents a soap-destroying power equivalent to one grain of chalk per gallon.

Reducing Power, 2·31. [Representing the Oxygen absorbed by the organic and other oxidisable matters in one million parts of water.]

Free and Unreal Ammonia, 0·04 parts per million.

Albuminoid Ammonia, 0·16 parts per million.

These results affords us evidence of contamination of the water by impurity of animal origin. The high figure recorded under the head of “Reducing Power,” and the brownish colour of the water is doubtless due to the presence of peaty matter ; this, though not injurious, gives the water an unsightly appearance, which could be removed by a suitable process of filtration.

ALFRED H. ALLEN.

February 23rd, 1904.

Report on a Sample of Drinking Water (High Level), received from the Corporation of the County Borough of Rotherham, on February 16th, 1904. Sample Mark :—No. 128.

Physical Characters :—

Suspended Matter—None

Appearance of a Column two feet long—Clear and colourless.

Taste—Normal. Odour—None.

On Analysis, the sample gave the following results :—

Total Solid Matter, 23·94 ; which lost on Ignition, 5·60 grs.

Chlorine, 1·50 ; equal to Sodium Chloride, 2·46 grs.

Nitrogen in oxidised forms, 0·47 ; equal to Nitric Acid (anhydrous), 1·81 grs.

Poisonous Metals (Lead, &c.), None.

Degrees of Hardness, 13·0. [Each degree of hardness represents a soap-destroying power equivalent to one grain of chalk per gallon.]

Reducing Power, 0·07. [Representing the Oxygen absorbed by the organic and other oxidisable matters in one million parts of water.]

Free and Ureal Ammonia, 0·03 parts per million.

Albuminoid Ammonia, 0·08 parts per million.

These results show the water in its present condition to be free from other than normal traces of readily changeable organic matter. The figures for Chloride and Nitrates suggest infiltration of some surface drainage or similar impurity, possibly the drainage from cultivated land.

ALFRED H. ALLEN.

February 23rd, 1904.

Report on a Sample of Drinking Water (Low Level), received from the Corporation of the County Borough of Rotherham, on February 16th, 1904. Sample Mark :—No. 127.

Physical Characters :—

Suspended Matter—None.

Appearance of a Column two feet long—Clear and colourless.

Taste—Normal. Odour—None.

On Analysis, the sample gave the following results :—

Total Solid Matter, 28·84 ; which lost on Ignition, 5·60 grs.

Chlorine, 2·25 ; equal to Sodium Chloride, 3·70 grs.

Nitrogen in oxidised forms, 0·47 ; equal to Nitric Acid (anhydrous), 1·81, grs.

Poisonous Metals (Lead, &c), None.

Degrees of Hardness, 17·0. [Each degree of hardness represents a soap-destroying power equivalent to one grain of chalk per gallon.]

Reducing Power, 0·26. [Representing the Oxygen absorbed by the organic and other oxidisable matters in one million parts of water.]

Free and Ureal Ammonia, 0·02 parts per million.

Albuminoid Ammonia, 0·08 parts per million.

These results show the water in its present condition to be free from other than normal traces of readily changeable organic matter. The excessive proportion of Chloride and the presence of Nitrates suggests infiltration of surface drainage or similar impurity, possibly the drainage from cultivated lands.

ALFRED H. ALLEN.

February 23rd, 1904.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

—O—

CANAL BOATS.

The total number of Canal Boats inspected during the year, was 50. No case of Infectious Disease was found on Board. The Vessels were found to be in fairly good condition, and the captains conforming with the regulations. Many of the boats are now registered under the Merchant Shipping Act, with a view to escape inspection by the various Local Authorities through whose district they have to pass.

The total number of children found on the boats was 34, and the ages as follows :—

1 year	...	...	...	...	8
2	„	...	...	...	3
3	„	...	...	...	5
4	„	...	...	...	7
5	„	...	...	...	1
6	„	...	...	...	2
7	„	...	...	...	1
8	„	...	...	...	1
9	„	...	...	...	2
10	„	...	...	...	2
11	„	...	...	...	2
					—
					34

DISEASES OF ANIMALS ACTS.—Three cases of Swine Fever have occurred in the Borough during the year, and confirmed by the Board of Agriculture, also an outbreak of Anthrax, resulting in the death of three Pigs.

The existing Regulations for the Movement of Swine has caused 1426 licenses to be granted on the same number of declarations being produced. 1417 licenses have been granted for the Movement of Swine from Sale Yards and the Cattle Market.

CONVERSIONS OF PRIVIES INTO WATER CLOSETS.—This work is not proceeding so rapidly as it ought to. There are many difficulties in the way and a great amount of persuasion and discretion has to be used in doing the work.

HOSPITAL.—The number of cases removed into Hospital during the year has been as follows :—

38 Small Pox
17 Scarlet Fever
1 Scarlet Fever from Tickhill

HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES ACT.—Houses inspected and reported by Medical Officer of Health :—

5	5 houses in Howard Street, repaired and made habitable
1	No. 32 house, Wellgate, closed by Owner
1	No. 14, 5 court, Wellgate, do.

7 houses

TABLE XV.—Nuisances Abated.

House drains opened, relaid, trapped, or ventilated ...	151
Water Closet drains opened & Water Services repaired	69
New Water Closets constructed in place of offensive Privies	141
Privies converted into Water Closets	130
Ashpits removed or reconstructed	86
Surface drainage repaired or paved	31
Stagnant water removed	4
Houses overcrowded	17
Manure and offensive accumulations removed	2
Fowls, Pigeons, and Rabbits removed... ..	10
Pigs so kept	3
Cesspools cleansed	215
Cowsheds provided with additional air space	2
„ „ drainage	1
„ „ light	9
„ „ ventilation	7
Water in Cellars	17
New Sinkstones provided	1
Filthy Houses	4
Blocks of Water Closets and passages cleansed	11
Yards paved	26
Cesspools constructed	1
New Privies erected	4
Sink Pipes repaired	4
	<hr/>
	946
	<hr/>
Private Slaughter Houses	24
Milkshops on Registry	31
Cowshed and Dairies	39

TABLE XVI.—Number of Workshops on the Register.

Dressmakers	...	...	...	...	44
Milliners	...	...	...	...	22
Joiners	...	...	...	...	7
Tailors	...	...	...	...	21
Paper Bag Makers	...	...	...	...	1
Memorial Masons	...	...	...	...	3
Tinsmith	...	...	...	...	2
Hosiery Manufacturers	...	...	...	...	6
Saddlers	...	...	...	...	1
Pattern Makers	...	...	...	...	1
Wheelwrights	...	...	...	...	4
Blacksmiths	...	...	...	...	10
Coach Builders	...	...	...	...	1
Herb Beer Manufacturer	...	...	...	...	1
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	7
Boot Repairers	...	...	...	...	17
Clog Makers	...	...	...	...	2
Cabinet Makers	...	...	...	...	2
Nail Makers	...	...	...	...	1
Drysalters	...	...	...	...	1
Underclothing Makers	...	...	...	...	1
Carpet Weavers	...	...	...	...	1
Rope Makers	...	...	...	...	1
Watch Makers	...	...	...	...	1
Mantle Makers	...	...	...	...	1
Mattress Makers	...	...	...	...	1
Chain Makers	...	...	...	...	1
Fork Makers	...	...	...	...	1
Cycle Makers	...	...	...	...	1
Chasers	...	...	...	...	1

The following Table shows the number of privies and ashpits cleansed, the number of loads of soil and ashes taken therefrom, also the number of loads of refuse collected and the disposal of the same :—

TABLE XVII.

Number of privies emptied	...	...	19,964
„ ashpits emptied	...	...	13,041
„ loads removed from ashpits and privies	...	...	13,183
„ loads of collected refuse	...	...	7,449
			—————20,632

DISPOSAL.

Number of loads burned at Destructor	...	...	12,953
„ tipped	...	...	6,593
„ disposed of to farmers	...	...	1,086
			—————20,632

TABLE XVIII.—Burned at Destructor.

Mattresses	...	...	...	721
Beds	...	...	...	46
Pillows	...	...	...	134
Blankets	...	...	...	12
Carcases of Beasts	...	...	...	21
„ Sheep	...	...	...	30
„ Calves	...	...	...	188
„ Goats	...	...	...	1
„ Pigs	...	...	...	94
„ Dogs	...	...	...	597
„ Donkeys	...	...	...	1
Beasts' heads, hearts, and livers	...	...	...	66
Sheeps', Pigs', and Calves' Plucks	...	...	...	33
Boxes of Mackerel	...	...	...	6
Crabs	...	...	...	95
Boxes of Finnon Haddocks	...	...	...	2
Boxes of Pigs' Kidneys	...	...	...	23
Ox Tails	...	...	...	32



TABLE XIX.

PROVISIONS SEIZED, OR SURRENDERED, AND
DESTROYED DURING THE YEAR.

Provisions.	No.	Lbs.	Pro- ceedings.	Penalties and Costs.		
				£	s	d
Beasts	17	8784	2	11	18	0
Sheep	13	720				
Calves	14	733				
Pigs	18	2730				
Goats	1	30				
Beasts Heads	15					
,, Hearts	15					
,, Livers	36					
Sheep Plucks }	33					
Pigs do. }						
Calves do. }						
Boxes of Mackerel	6		1	2	19	0
Crabs	95					
Boxes of Finnon's	2					
Boxes of Pigs Kidneys ..	23					
Ox Tails	32					
Sundry Meat		150				
Cod Fish	18					
	338	13147	3	14	17	0

TABLE XX.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.

No. of Samples	Nature of Samples	Pure	Adulterated	Summonses issued	Con-victions	Penalties and Costs		
						£	s	d
101	Milk, New	98	3	4	3	8	1	6
5	„ Old	5						
22	Butter	21	1	1	1	1	14	0
6	Lard	6						
2	Cheese.....	2						
136		132	4	5	4	9	15	6

Of the samples of New Milk which were analysed :—

13 were of Superior quality.

45 were Genuine.

39 were of Fair quality.

1 sample slightly below the standard ; no proceedings being taken in this case.

1 summons was dismissed on proof of warranty.

CHARLES E. PARKIN,

Chief Inspector.

